to finalise the BPL List based on BPL Census 2002 within a period of 3-4 months without violating the orders of Hon'ble supreme Court of India dated 5th May, 2003.

UNICEF's assistance for Rural Sanitation Campaign in Karnataka

2396. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Union Government with UNICEF has funded the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) in rural sanitation campaign in Karnataka;

(b) how many villages does this scheme cover and what would be the project cost and the funds released by the Centre;

(c) will this programme be interlinked with the "Nirmala Grama" Yojana;

(d) has Government noticed the observations made by UNICEF representative Michells St. Lot that only 22 per cent of entire nation has access to sanitation; and

(e) what are the initiatives Government has proposed to increase rural sanitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Information, Education & Communication (IEC) is an integral part of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects, which have been sanctioned by Union Government in all rural districts of Karnataka. Total project outlay of TSC projects in Karnataka is Rs. 325.03 crore. Share of Union Government, State Government and Community are Rs. 207.15 crore, Rs. 73.28 crore and Rs. 44.60 crore respectively. Union Government has so far released Rs. 64.37 crore to these Projects. In addition, Union Government has supported the State Communication and Capacity Development Unit (CCDU) for taking up IEC and capacity building activities in the State for which fund of Rs. 120.59 lakh was provided during 2004-05. UNICEF has also provided funds of Rs. 36.00 lakh for supporting CCDU during 2005.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal with the Union Government.

(d) As per census 2001, rural sanitation coverage is only 21.91% in the country.

(e) Government has taken various initiatives to increase rural sanitation coverage, which include scaling up TSC projects in all districts of the country, increased budgetary allocation for TSC, launching of incentive-cum-reward scheme, Nirmal Gram Puraskar for Panchayati Raj Institutions, awareness generation activities and capacity development of different stakeholders etc.

Upliftment of Rural Areas

2397. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's proposed schemes for uplifitment of rural India have failed to achieve the target due to inadequate mechanism of dissemination of information amongst the rural population;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose or have taken to give due publicity of the schemes in the rural areas of the country;

(c) the system for monitoring the progress of the implementation of such scheme; and

(d) as large part of rural India is out of reach of print/electronic media, whether Government will involve the elected public representatives for proper implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of schemes through State Govemments/UT Administrations for upliftment of the rural poor in the country. These schemes are reviewed through various monitoring mechanism regularly and according to the Progress Reports received from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, the performance of these schemes has been found to be satisfactory. In view of the magnitude of disseminating information to a vast population of rural poor and of ensuring participation of the society in rural development, Information, Education and Communication activities have been substantially scaled up through print media, electronic media and